

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB 03/04069

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G06K7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06K H01R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                               | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X          | US 5 902 152 A (ROBERT BERNARD)<br>11 May 1999 (1999-05-11)<br>the whole document                                | 1,2,7-9               |
| A          | US 4 993 956 A (PICKLES CHARLES S ET AL)<br>19 February 1991 (1991-02-19)<br>abstract; claims; figures           | 1-9                   |
| A          | US 6 165 021 A (BOURNE FREDERIC)<br>26 December 2000 (2000-12-26)<br>cited in the application<br>claims; figures | 1-9                   |
| A          | US 5 309 324 A (SIMPSON SCOTT S ET AL)<br>3 May 1994 (1994-05-03)<br>abstract; claims; figures                   | 1-9                   |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/02/2004

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| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s)   | Publication<br>date  |
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| US 4993956                                | A | 19-02-1991          | NONE   |  |
| US 6165021                                | A | 26-12-2000          | FR 2730328 A1<br>AT 172563 T<br>AU 701547 B2<br>AU 4667296 A<br>CA 2211344 A1<br>CN 1173232 A<br>DE 69600834 D1<br>DE 69600834 T2<br>EP 0807295 A1<br>ES 2125096 T3<br>WO 9624111 A1<br>JP 11500549 T<br>RU 2181908 C2 | 09-08-1996<br>15-11-1998<br>28-01-1999<br>21-08-1996<br>08-08-1996<br>11-02-1998<br>26-11-1998<br>15-04-1999<br>19-11-1997<br>16-02-1999<br>08-08-1996<br>12-01-1999<br>27-04-2002 |
| US 5309324                                | A | 03-05-1994          | US RE35733 E   | 17-02-1998   |